

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 01706 171456Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01
AGRE-00 DODE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /058 W
-----171503Z 079060 /50

R 170940Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9976
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 1706

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, PINT, PFOR, SNAR
SUBJECT: GOP ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES AND POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS

REF: ISLAMABAD A-25

1. SINCE PAKISTAN IS A MAJOR PRODUCER OF OPIUM, BUT NOT YET A SOURCE FOR THE AMERICAN MARKET, THE EMBASSY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PREPARE A REPORT ON RELEVANT POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE NARCOTICS SITUATION IN PAKISTAN. REPORT (REFAIR) IS BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES; THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES CONTENTS. THE REPORT IS STRICTLY DESCRIPTIVE AND DOES NOT DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE PROGRAM OF THE GOP OR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO DIMINISH OR STOP OPIUM GROWING IN PAKISTAN. IT WAS WRITTEN BOTH TO GIVE WASHINGTON BACKGROUND ON THE POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS THAT AFFECT THE GOP APPROACH TO THE NARCOTICS ISSUE AND FOR THE MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE TO USE IN THEIR OWN DELIBERATIONS ON THE NARCOTICS SITUATION IN PAKISTAN. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF REPORT.

2. DESPITE CURRENT EFFORTS BY THE GOP, U.S. MISSION PERSONNEL, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO END THE ILLEGAL PRODUCTION AND FLOW OF OPIUM, PRODUCTION AND TRAFFIC REMAIN AT HIGH LEVELS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 01706 171456Z

IN PAKISTAN. IF THE GOP ESCALATES ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES FURTHER, IT WILL HAVE TO PAY DOMESTIC POLITICAL COSTS IT IS NOW PROBABLY UNWILLING AND PERHAPS UNABLE TO ASSUME.

3. OPIUM ABUSE IS NOT PERCEIVED AS AN INTERNAL PAKISTANI PROBLEM.

4. LICENSED OPIUM PRODUCTION IS RELATIVELY SMALL IN COMPARISON WITH PAKISTAN'S OVERALL OPIUM YIELD. LICENSED OPIUM IS A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF PROVINCIAL REVENUE. THEREFORE, ANY EFFORT TO CURB LICENSED GROWING WILL INCUR OPPOSITION FROM PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. MOREOVER, THE PROFITABILITY OF THE LICENSED DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM RELIES ON THE AVAILABILITY OF ILLICIT OPIUM IN QUANTITIES FAR LARGER THAN LICIT SUPPLY. THE PROVINCES HAVE A VESTED INTEREST, THEREFORE, IN PERPETUATING THE EXISTENCE OF A LARGE AMOUNT OF ILLEGAL OPIUM.

5. OPIUM PRODUCTION IS LIMITED TO THE FRONTIER REGION OF PAKISTAN. MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE OPIUM COMES FROM THE FEDERALLY ADMINISTERED TRIBAL AREAS. BECAUSE NO GOVERNMENT HAS EVER BEEN ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTER THE REGION AND BECAUSE MOST PARTS ARE EXTREMELY REMOTE THE GOP WOULD FIND ENDING OPIUM PRODUCTION THERE POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY BEYOND ITS MEANS. THE REMAINDER OF PAKISTANI OPIUM COMES FROM THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE (NWFP), WHERE THE TRADE IS TACITLY CONDONED. THOSE ENGAGED IN THE TRADE ARE WEALTHY AND POLITICALLY INFLUENTIAL. THIS POLITICAL INFLUENCE INSULATES THE INDUSTRY FROM EFFECTIVE PROVINCIAL AND OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

6. THE MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTY, WHICH CONTROLS THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY STRONG IN THE NWFP TO MAKE LOCAL OFFICE-BEARER-MEMBERS ENFORCE AN EFFECTIVE ANTI-OPIUM DRIVE. RATHER, THE CENTRAL PARTY MUST COURT LOCAL POLITICAL LEADERS FOR POLITICAL SUPPORT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 01706 171456Z

7. THOUGH THE ANNUAL HARVEST OF OPIUM IS LARGE, OPIUM CULTIVATION IN THE FRONTIER IS MAINLY CARRIED OUT IN SMALL, ISOLATED PATCHES IN PHYSICALLY REMOTE, DIFFICULT TERRAIN INHABITED BY ARMED, STAUNCHLY INDEPENDENT TRIBAL PEOPLE. THESE FACTORS INCREASE THE DIFFICULTY OF CARRYING OUT ANY PLAN TO ENFORCE A CURB ON POPPY CULTIVATION. MOREOVER, THE TRIBAL AREAS COULD PROBABLY INCREASE CULTIVATION TO OFFSET ANY DROP IN PRODUCTION IN THE PROVINCE. CURRENT STOCKPILES COULD COVER ANY INTERIM DROP IN PRODUCTION.

8. THE GOP IS UNLIKELY TO ENTER INTO A LARGE-SCALE, HIGHLY-VISIBLE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM IN WHICH THE PERCEIVED COSTS EXCEED PERCEIVED BENEFITS; THE EFFECT WOULD BE POLITICALLY DAMAGING. THE RULING PARTY HAS A PHILOSOPHICAL COMMITMENT TO HELP THE POOR. SINCE FARMERS IN THE OPIUM-PRODUCING AREAS ARE AMONG THE POOREST PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN, ADMINISTRATORS AND POLITICIANS HESITATE TO UNDERTAKE PILOT PROJECTS IN NARCOTICS ABATEMENT WHICH WOULD ENTAIL A REDUCTION IN RURAL INCOME. THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT EXPLOITS THIS ATTITUDE TO DELAY

PROGRAMS AND TO SECURE GREATER INPUT OF DEVELOPMENT FUNDS
INTO NWFP.
BYROADE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, DRUG CONTROL, NARCOTICS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ISLAMA01706
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770057-0141
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770233/aaaabcsq.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a0a917c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ISLAMABAD A-25
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3298809
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES AND POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SNAR, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a0a917c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009